

# The Sanctuary – Holy Place - Altar of Incense II

ST Series 13

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## Altar of Incense – Fires keep burning

The **golden altar** had only one use, upon it incense fumed. When the lamps were trimmed at dawn or lit at dusk, the golden censer, newly filled with holy coals, was placed on the golden altar (Ex.30:7,8). Then **incense** was spread upon these embers, and its perfume rose on fragrant wings to press this challenge to all who enjoyed its loveliness: *Lift up your voice in prayer as day begins, and when the shadows gather and your tasks are laid aside, review the day's activities and pray again. Prayer's twin arms should embrace all life's activities.*

The **spark** to kindle the incense sprang from the sacred \_\_\_\_\_ on the copper altar (Ex 30:9; cf Rev 8:5) these embers form yet another link to join the two altars in one mystic ministry. They glow with this truth: **Calvary** is the sole foundation for efficient intercession, and it alone can fuel our fervency in prayer. How? \_\_\_\_\_

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Every morning and evening these living coals were carried in a censer of gold (Rev 8:3: 2 Chron 4:22) and spread over \_\_\_\_\_ within its encircling \_\_\_\_\_  
And under the shadow of its protecting horns.

The prepared \_\_\_\_\_ were next carefully sprinkled upon these searing embers. Only then was the Tabernacle filled with fragrance, and Israel's entire encampment, and even the area for miles around, perfumed as the garden of the Lord (PP 348).

God required this **spicery to burn** night and day (Ex 30:7,8; cf 27:20,21) so as to embrace all other ministries with its sweetness. **Irradiated with the light of the seven lamps or the Shekinah these clouds of loveliness pointed up to the Sanctuary in heaven filled with the savor of the qualities of our Pleader Prince.**

## **FIRE, CENSER, INCENSE**

Each of these items is a sign pointing us **to Jesus**, Heaven's accepting **Fire**, and Jehovah's **crucified Sacrifice**. In the celestial Sanctuary Christ, our "**Mediator**, stands

before the Father to present [our] prayers, mingled with His own merit and spotless righteousness, as fragrant incense” (CT 241).

### The Significance of Incense

The significance of the incense is explained in Scripture. The Psalmist pleads:

“Let my \_\_\_\_\_” (Ps.141:2)

At the time of the burning of incense (both morning and evening) all the people in the camp of Israel were praying. God promised to “meet with” them during that time. (Luke 1:9,10 PP 353)

*Application: Here is an example that is given for morning and evening worship. Jesus will meet with those who love Him enough to do so.*

The radiance from the seven-starred candelabrum shining through these perfumed clouds formed rainbows (cf. Gen 9:13-17) dancing in joy with new covenant assurances (EW 252).

### **Ingredients Used to Make Incense:**

When the four ingredients were mixed together, they produced a most fragrant perfume, especially when burned. (Ex 30:35)

1. Stacte—
2. Onycha—
3. Galbanum—
4. Frankincense—

These four ingredients were first prepared separately, carefully weighed, and then blended in perfect proportions, “pure and holy” (Ex 30:35), to typify these characteristics in Christ.

Salt (Ex 30:34, margin; Lev 2:13), required in every offering presented at the Sanctuary, was finally added to the mass, and so the ingredients for the incense were complete in the perfumier’s mortar.